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**SAUDI AMBASSADOR PRAISES NEW ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP**

Washington, DC (July 28, 2011) — Saudi Aramco and U.S.-based Dow Chemical have announced a joint venture to build and operate a world-scale, fully integrated chemicals complex in Jubail Industrial City in Saudi Arabia. The authorization for the new joint venture, named “Sadara Chemical Company,” comes after an extensive project feasibility study and front-end engineering and design effort that began in 2007.

“Saudi Arabia’s free market economy has undergone remarkable changes in a relatively short period of time and has become the largest destination for foreign direct investment in the region,” said Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir. “The Kingdom welcomes this new partnership with Dow Chemical to bring new technology and innovation to Saudi Arabia.”

For the past four decades, the United States has been Saudi Arabia’s largest trading partner; the Kingdom is the largest market for American products in the Middle East. In 2010, bilateral trade reached \$43 billion. Also in 2010, Saudi Arabia ranked 12th in the world in attracting direct foreign investment, according to the World Investment Report 2011 released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

For more information on economic opportunities in Saudi Arabia please visit [www.saudiembassy.net](http://www.saudiembassy.net) or follow the Embassy on Twitter @SaudiEmbassyUSA.

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# SAUDI ARABIA | IN FOCUS

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## COUNTERTERRORISM

### **King urges Muslim scholars to spread true message of Islam**

On July 25, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz urged participants at a conference in Makkah to express disappointment at fellow Muslims causing harm to Islam. King Abdullah called on participants to abide by the Islamic creed, *Aqeedah*, and present the true message of Islam. The King expressed his distress at Muslims causing harm to Islam and one another, saying that this kind of behavior enables and provides the enemies of Islam with an opportunity. While addressing the scholars at his palace in Jeddah, King Abdullah advised, "You scholars should uphold the basic principles of Islam which are principles of love, principles of loyalty and principles of sincerity and faith." The three-day conference, organized by the Muslim World League, urged scholars, intellectuals and all Islamic organizations to intensify education programs.

### **OIC Secretary General condemns terrorist attacks in Norway**

Secretary General of the Jeddah-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu expressed shock and horror at the terrorist attacks in Norway that took place on July 22. The Secretary General strongly condemned the tragic incidents and offered his condolences to the families of the victims and to the government and people of Norway. He reiterated the OIC's firm position against all forms of terrorism and urged the international community to remain steadfast in combating terrorism.

## EDUCATION

### **Saudi Ambassador expresses Kingdom's commitment to youth**

Saudi Ambassador to the United States Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir headed the Kingdom's delegation to the United Nation's 2011 High Level Meeting on Youth. The meeting was part of the U.N.'s "International Year of Youth" which began in August 2010 and has focused on providing opportunities for youth around the world. Speaking about the high level meeting, Ambassador Al-Jubeir said, "Our youth are Saudi Arabia's greatest natural resource, and the Kingdom is committed to guiding and supporting them to encourage them to reach their full potential. Throughout its history, Saudi Arabia has allocated substantial resources to improve the lives of its citizens, particularly its youth."

Ambassador Al-Jubeir outlined several ways in which Saudi Arabia has demonstrated its commitment to Saudi youth. He noted that the Kingdom spends

approximately 25 percent of its annual budget on education initiatives, ensuring every citizen access to education from primary school through graduate study. Furthermore, the King Abdullah Scholarship Program for Study Abroad has allowed more than 120,000 students to study at universities worldwide. Domestically, Saudi Arabia has announced plans for the establishment of 25 new colleges of technology, 28 higher technical institutes and 50 industrial training institutes, all of which will be free of charge.

## SAUDI-U.S. RELATIONS

### **Royal Saudi Air Force to participate in 2011 Rodeo Exercise**

Royal Saudi Air Force aircraft arrived at Lewis McCord Base in Washington state, where they will take part in the 2011 Rodeo Exercise. In advance of the joint exercises which will involve several countries, the Saudi personnel completed preparatory maneuvers at Little Rock Base in Arkansas.

## FOREIGN AID

### **Islamic Development Bank funds Palestinian school rehabilitation**

Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad signed an agreement on July 19 with the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank to finance the rehabilitation of schools in Jerusalem which will cost \$4.5 million. In a press statement, Adviser to the Prime Minister for Arab and Islamic Funds Jawad Naji said that the money will be allocated for the improvement of about 30 schools, in addition to the provision of equipment to other schools and the city's Directorate of Education.

### **Saudi food assistance arrives in Dushanbe**

A consignment of Saudi humanitarian assistance, including dates and foodstuffs weighing 200 tons, arrived on July 23 at Dushanbe Airport. In accordance with a royal order issued by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the aid was given as a gift from the Kingdom to the people of Tajikistan on the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

### **Kingdom boosts emergency aid to Somalia**

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz issued a directive to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Somali refugees. The assistance includes \$50 million for food through the World Food Program (WFP) and \$10 million for medication and vaccines, in a joint effort between the Saudi Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Kingdom urged all Somalis to cease combat operations in order to open roads for humanitarian assistance.